

I claim:

1. A method of securing the channel by a QoS manager in an *ad hoc* network having a contention protocol including a normal priority resolution period having multiple priority resolution slots therein, wherein the contention protocol includes plural contention state slots, and wherein plural devices contend for transmission time on the network by transmitting priority resolution symbols during a priority resolution period, comprising:

defining a QoS manager constructed and arranged to compete with the plural devices on the network; and

providing an extended priority resolution slot for transmission of a priority resolution symbol at the end of the normal priority resolution period.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the QoS manager retains the channel by asserting a contention free flag.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said providing an extended priority resolution slot includes preempting a contention state slot.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the *ad hoc* network is HomePlug, and wherein said providing an extended priority resolution slot includes providing a third priority resolution slot, PRS3, by preempting contention state slot 0.

1006592-1341
10926592

9. A method of securing the channel by a QoS manager in an *ad hoc* network having a contention protocol including a normal priority resolution period having multiple priority resolution slots therein, wherein the contention protocol includes plural contention state slots, and wherein plural devices content for transmission time on the network by transmitting priority resolution symbols during a priority resolution period, comprising:

defining a QoS manager constructed and arranged to compete with the plural devices on the network; and

providing an extended priority resolution slot for transmission of a priority resolution symbol at the end of the normal priority resolution period, wherein the QoS manager retains the channel by asserting a contention free flag.

10. The method of claim 9 which includes providing additional priority resolution periods to control the network with the QoS manager.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein said providing an extended priority resolution slot includes preempting a contention state slot.

12. The method of claim 9 wherein the *ad hoc* network is HomePlug, and wherein said providing an extended priority resolution slot includes providing a third priority resolution slot, PRS3, by preempting contention state slot 0.